

REMARKS

The Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated January 19, 2006. Applicant has amended claims 1, 7, 16 and 23 to more particularly point out and distinctively claim the invention. Claim 22 is canceled. Support for the amendments are found in the specification, for example at page 12, lines 10 – 30, page 13, page 17, lines 21 – 24, and in Figures 3a, 4 and 6b specifically. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added by this amendment. Upon entry of this amendment claims 1, 5-13, 16-21 and 23 are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 5-13, 16-18 and 20-23 under 35 USC §102(b) as unpatentable based upon an alleged public use or sale of the invention as shown in Puppetools: www.puppetools.com as retrieved from Internet Archive Wayback Machine <www.archive.org>. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and submits the amended claims were not in public use or on sale more than one year prior to the filing date of the subject application.

Applicant respectfully submits that the newly cited Puppetools reference does not disclose or reasonably suggest each element of the amended claims.

Specifically, the references do not teach or reasonably suggest a full system that facilitates learning and communication *among* remote site users together, *i.e.* by a remote site user with other remote site users and the training laboratory in connection with play with the formed puppet which promotes right brain visual thinking, processing and communication, thus promoting brain development of the user, as recited in Applicant's amended claims. This method and system did not exist in the Puppetools prior references. The claimed system in essence creates a virtual community which allows true distance learning among multiple remote site users, and Applicant respectfully submits that this system did not exist at the time of, nor it is disclosed in, the Puppetools reference.

Further, the prior Puppetools references do not teach or reasonably suggest a system where content providers provide images which are then configured to include a hinge area and being adapted for hand manipulation, as recited in the amended claims. Nor does the prior Puppetools references teach or reasonably suggest remote site users accessing an interface and

selecting images which are then used to form puppets used in communication with other remote site users as recited in Applicant's amended claims.

Applicant submits that the existence of the paper puppet, and instructions on how to use it for communication, does not disclose or teach a web based puppetry interactive communication system and method as recited in the amended claims. As stated before, the paper puppet itself has been disclosed in prior patents, such as US Patent no. 4,555,236, referenced in a prior an Information Disclosure Statement filed by the Applicant. Applicant respectfully submits that the newly cited reference to the paper puppet and general play instructions and the on-line course adds nothing more. The focus of the prior Puppetools reference is directed primarily to the puppets and their use as a *standalone* tool, not a web-based *interactive* communications system that facilitates learning and communication by a remote site user with other remote site users and the training laboratory in connection with play with the formed puppet, as recited in Applicant's amended claims.

Based on the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If any matters can be handled by telephone, Applicant requests that the Examiner telephone Applicants' attorney at the number below. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional required fees, or credit any overpayment, to Dorsey & Whitney LLP Deposit Account No. 50-2319 (Order No. A-69185/MSS (468984-2)).

Respectfully submitted,
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